TO ALL JAILED IN WASHINGTON

Mark Morris has been commissioned by WRL to design a button carrying the words: "I was an American P.O.W.—Camp Nixon, May, 1971"

The buttons sell for $1—no discount or bulk rate—with all proceeds going to help meet the $100,000 deficit of the Peoples Coalition for Peace and Justice. Order your button from us now.

MAY-JUNE 1971

WRL NEWS

Published by War Resisters League 339 Lafayette Street, New York, N.Y. 10012, U.S. branch of the War Resisters Intl., a pacifist organization with affiliates in 20 countries and individuals in more than 80 countries. Staff—Ralph DiGia, David McReynolds, Jerry Coffin, Peter Kiger, Wendy Schwartz, Editor—Jim Peck. *No. 165*

WASHINGTON: MAY 3-5

Some 3,500 persons were arrested May 4 in this massive sitdown at the Department of Justice. Arrests the previous day totaled over 7,000. the total for the 3-day period, climaxing the Spring Offensive, was over 13,500. Never before had so many demonstrators been jailed in the U.S. for nonviolent civil disobedience.

In his autobiographical film, Martin Luther King, Jr. says that his dream of filling the jails came closest to realization in Birmingham in 1963 when over 2,000 demonstrators were imprisoned. He should have lived to witness this scene at the Washington Coliseum, which held the overflow of demonstrators for whom there was no room in the jammed D.C. jails.

WRL ELECTION RESULTS

The following are newely elected members of the WRL Executive Committee: Maris Cakars, Jim Forest, Ed Gottlieb, Carol Henning, George Lakey, Barbara Webster, Sandra Wolf, and Van Zwisohn. Incumbents who were reelected are Bent Andresen, Neil Haworth, Brad Lyttle, and Irma Zigas.

The voting for the National Committee went as follows: James Bristol, Barbara Deming, Sue Bass, Bob Eaton, Beverly Woodward, and Arlo Tatum will represent the East; Don Bender, Don Calhoun, and Margie Rece will represent the South; Seth Foldy, Larry Gara, Joe Tuchinsky, Vic Schumacher, Mulford Sibley, and Jack Wenzel, from the Midwest; Steve Kosokoff, LaVerne Kohl, Roy Kepler, Ira Sandperl, Burt Wallrich and Glenn Smiley will represent the West. This is the first election ever for the National Committee because this is the first time the WRL has ever had a National Committee. Last year's national conference called for the creation of the NC.

About 2,000 WRL members—out of a total membership of about 10,000—participated in the elections.

At the May meeting of the WRL executive committee the following were elected as officers: Igal Roodenko, chairman; Irma Zigas, vice-chairwoman; Neil Haworth, vice-chairman; John Darr, treasurer; and Edward Gottlieb, secretary. Tracy D. Mygatt and Frances Witherspoon are honorary chairwomen.

War Resisters International is looking for two persons who speak Esperanto who can take part in the 1972 57th Esperanto Congress that will be held in the United States. WRI organizes a special meeting of its members at these congresses and rather than sending someone all the way from Europe they are hoping that there are two WRL members who are concerned enough about Esperanto and likely enough to attend the meeting that they could take on the job of setting up the session. Anyone interested should contact the WRL office.

When you receive this issue, WRL Chairman Igal Roodenko will be concluding his 3-month nationwide tour. He will report on it in next WRL NEWS.

WRL WEEKEND

"The Spring Offensive and Beyond" will be the main topic of this year's annual weekend. The date is June 11-13 and the place is Hudson Guild Farm at Andover, New Jersey. Other topics will include Women and The Movement, a report on Roodenko's national tour and a report of the Cuba Project.

The price which includes food and lodging is $25 for adults and $20 for students and the unemployed. The farm can only accomodate 115 so send in your reservation now. A $5 deposit will hold your reservation.

Further details will be included in a mailing to WRLers in the New York area. Persons not in the area who want further information should write to the office.

AT LAST—You Can Write Your Friends in Federal Prison

According to U.S. Bureau of Prisons policy statement 7300.14, which went into effect February 2, anybody can write letters to federal prisoners and they can write to anybody.

Previously federal prisoners could correspond only with persons on their approved correspondence list, which was limited to relatives plus four non-relatives. For persons NOT on the approved list, the only correspondence permitted was a holiday card at Christmas with nothing written on it other than the signature.

If your letter to your friend in federal prison *should* be returned by some over-zealous mail censor, protest to the warden at that particular prison and cite the number of the new policy statement—7300.14. The only prisoners excluded, according to the statement, are those on particular restrictions within the prison.

JERRY COFFIN BACK ON JOB

Jerry Coffin, author of the column "Organizing Notes," is back on the job following a 6-month stint as an organizer for the Spring Offensive. His energies again will be devoted to helping WRL members organize local groups.

If you are interested in starting a local group, be sure to contact the WRL office.

FIRST CHILDREN'S NOVEL ON VIETNAM WAR

— The first novel for children to deal with the Vietnam war was published April 22 by Little Brown & Co. It is "One Day for Peace," by Alexander Crosby, who is a WRLer.

The heroine of this anti-war story is a junior high school student who encounters opposition when she tries to organize a peace march after her good friend, a black milkman, is killed in Vietnam. The book is available from WRL at $4.95.

NEW LITERATURE

THE RESISTANCE A history and analysis by Michael Ferber and Staughton Lynd (paperback) $2.95

THE ORGANIZER'S MANUAL Practical suggestions for grass roots organizing by the O. M. Collective. Paperback $1.25

Now in Paperback

4 books formerly available only in expensive hardcover editions:

REVOLUTIONARY NONVIOLENCE by David Dellinger. $2.50

SAL SI PUEDES The biography of Cesar Chavez by Peter Mattiessen $2.95

GANDHI—HIS RELEVANCE FOR OUR TIMES An anthology including writings by A. J. Muste, Joan Bondurant, Mulford Sibley, G. Ramachandran, etc. $2.95

REBELS AGAINST WAR The story of the U.S. peace movement from 1941 to 1960 by Lawrence Wittner $2.95

THE VIETNAM DIARY OF A GI KILLED IN ACTION—Read it in the special May 15 issue of WIN 30c

(The diary was found on the battlefield, made its way to Hanoi and was turned over by the NLF to Bob Greenblatt, visiting there as a representative of the U.S. peace movement)

ENROLLMENT BLANK

Send to War Resisters League
339 Lafayette Street, N. Y., N.Y. 10012

WAR IS A CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY.
I THEREFORE AM DETERMINED NOT TO SUPPORT ANY KIND OF WAR, INTERNATIONAL OR CIVIL, AND TO STRIVE FOR THE REMOVAL OF ALL THE CAUSES OF WAR

signature _____

address _____

city _____

state _____ *zip code*

XUM

Protest Jailing of Spanish Peace Walkers

by Jim Peck

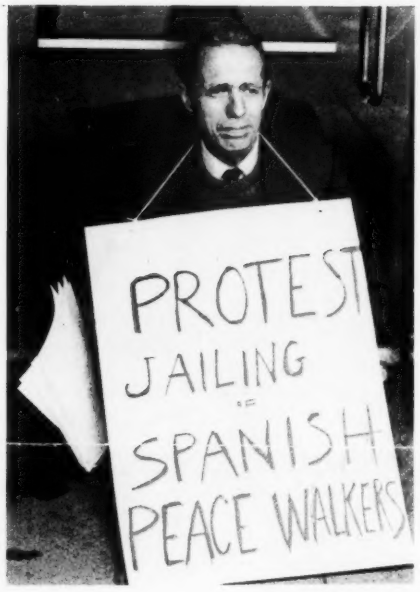

Photo by Bob Parent

At exactly noon on April 22, I sat down in front of the door to the Spanish National Tourist Office with a placard saying "Protest Jailing of Spanish Peace Walkers."

Leaflets distributed to the Fifth Avenue crowds by six persons including a representative of Confederated Spanish Societies, an anti-Franco coalition group, told the story.

"Seven Spanish pacifists were arrested just beyond the border on Easter Sunday for the 'crime' of walking along the highway with placards urging that their government recognize the right of conscientious objection to war, as do most western European governments.

"They were part of a group of some 150 pacifists who, under sponsorship of the War Resisters International, had walked all the way from Geneva, Switzerland—across France—to publicize Spain's intolerance on this issue. The non-Spanish peace walkers were halted at the frontier near Bourg-Madame, France, and were roughed up by Spanish police when they sat down, in protest, on the international bridge. The Spanish walkers were permitted to cross the border but were arrested soon thereafter and taken to Barcelona where they are imprisoned. They had intended to walk all the way to Valencia, where Pepe Beunza, the first Spanish pacifist to be prosecuted, is in jail. The seven arrested Spaniards are: Gonzalo Arias (the man who about a year ago was arrested for walking in downtown Madrid with a placard urging free elections in Spain), Luis Fenollossa, Mara Gonzalez, Santiago Juan, Maria Recasens, Miguel Gil and Jose Diaz."

After about 10 minutes of blocking the door to the Tourist Office, I was asked by the manager Enrique Garcia-Herraiz, to move and I refused. He thereupon summoned the police who arrested me on a charge of "criminal trespass." In court he said he had filed the charge because he feared I might sue the Spanish Tourist Office in retaliation for his having ordered my arrest. When I asserted that I had no such intention, he declined to press the charge and the case was dismissed.

SAIL TO CUBA

by Wendy Schwartz

By the time you've got your glasses adjusted and are reading this article, the crew of the *Mondcivitano* will have landed at Havana and will be distributing the children's artwork they took along. That is, if everything goes off on schedule. At press time, the sailing date was set for May 19 and Scott Herrick (the boat's captain), Sally Willoughby, and Denis Adelsberger had already done the first lap of the trip—from Miami to Key West. But we had not yet gotten permission to dock from the Cuban government, and Peter Seeger was still uncertain about being able to go although he was anxious to, so final details were not worked out.

Over a thousand pictures have been collected from all over the country to take to Cuba, and Scott even received a parcel of art from Canada.

There has been no further word from the United States State Department on the legality of the trip, but the crew believes that this project is a communication between the people of two countries and therefore transcends any obstacles either government could impose.

Besides Scott, Sally, and Denis, the crew members are Edna Coleman, Edward Gottlieb, Diana Davies, and Jim Peck. The boat is due back around June 5 and hopefully will be loaded with Cuban artwork that can be displayed around the country and then distributed to some of the groups that gave pictures to the Cuban children through our project.

FBI SNOOPED ON WRI TRIENNIAL

Concrete evidence that the FBI spied on the WRI Triennial Conference in Haverford, Pennsylvania in August 1969, is contained in one of 14 internal bureau communications mailed anonymously to a number of periodicals and individuals. The FBI acknowledged on March 24 that the documents are authentic and said they had been stolen from the bureau in Media, Pennsylvania on March 8.

The communication regarding the WRI is from Secret Agent Thomas F. Lewis, it says:

"By letter dated 7/18/69, Bureau instructed this office determine events connected with captioned conference in view of current international situation and the Paris Peace Talks.

"Through established sources only make inquiry concerning this conference to determine its scope and whether or not there are any indications it will generate any anti-U.S. propaganda. *Be most discreet* in handling this matter.

"Each agent and SRA receiving this memo should discreetly contact appropriate sources and information in line with Bureau instructions. Efforts should be made to have informants and sources attend the conference.

"Submit results to no. 3 Supervisor by 9/22/69."

What the "results" were, of course, WRL never had an opportunity to ascertain. The League did get to see the memo since it was sent to *Liberation* and WIN magazine.

The *New York Times*, in a front page story the day after the FBI admitted authenticity said: "The documents suggest that FBI surveillance of dissenters on the political left has been far more extensive than was generally known. They also show that the subjects of inquiries include obscure persons marginally suspected of illegal activity. In addition, the papers disclose that Mr. Hoover (J. Edgar Hoover, the Bureau's notorious director) has given his approval for the limited recruitment of informers in the 18-to-21 age group."

PICKET PAKISTANI MISSION

At the suggestion of the War Resisters International, WRL on April 20 picketed the Pakistani Mission to the Pakistani armies from Bengal and the UN urging "a complete withdrawal of initiation of talks between the Pakistani government and leaders of the 73 millions of East Pakistan is to grant them the rights of self-determination."

AFTER THE 'SPR

by David M

The Spring Offensive is over for now. It began with the demonstrations for social justice, April 2-5, and ended with the demonstrations in support of men in service, May 15. But its high point came in May, when 13,500 persons were jailed in 7 days as they took part in the largest single non-violent direct action in American history.

This is not a report of what happened in Washington, but an effort to examine where the movement is now, with the Spring Offensive behind us and part of history. There is, unhappily, no way in an analysis to capture the courage, the spirit, the sense of joy and victory which was shared in the streets and jail cells and detention camps of Washington, D.C. WIN magazine will carry a full report in an early issue—and is particularly able to report events, since the entire WIN staff got arrested there. I do want to note the contribution of the pacifists to the Spring Offensive. Special credit goes to Jerry Coffin of our staff for his work with the May Day Collective, and to Carl Zeitlow and Brian Yaffe who, along with others, worked night and day to train thousands in nonviolence, and to Bob Levering and the others who staffed the People's Lobby office and organized the first wave of arrests, April 26-30.

The first phase of the Spring Offensive began April 2-4 with demonstrations and community projects related to the needs of the poor and non-whites in our society. This was run by the Peoples Coalition for Peace and Justice, was decentralized, and brought middle class whites into direct relationship with the National Welfare Rights Organization (NWRO) and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC).

The second phase of the Spring Offensive was organized by the Vietnam Veterans and held the nation's attention for the week of April 19-23, as veterans demonstrated in Washington. The third phase was the April 24 demonstrations in Washington and San Francisco, co-sponsored by the National Peace Action Coalition (NPAC) and the Peoples Coalition for Peace and Justice. There are no accurate estimates on how many took part in these demonstrations, but it seems certain that, taking Washington and San Francisco together, well over half a million people participated.

The fourth phase was the Peoples Lobby from April 26-30, sponsored by the Peoples Coalition and organized by the pacifist groups in the coalition. Several hundred were arrested in intensive actions at Congress, IRS, Selective Service, HEW, and Justice. The fifth and final phase began on Monday, May 3, with actions sponsored by the Peoples Coalition and the May Day Collective. This was the day when the May Day people tried to "close down the government" through blocking traffic, while the Peoples Coalition tried to march on the Pentagon. On May 4 thousands gathered at the Justice Department, blocking the doors, while John Mitchell watched from his balcony. On May 5 thousands gathered on the steps of the capitol to hear four Congressmen—Parren Mitchell, Ron Dellums, Charles Rangel, and Bella Abzug—address them. In the midst of this peaceful, legal gathering, with members of Congress present and speaking, arrests began. Sid Peck, leader of the Peoples Coalition, spoke the final words as the police moved in: "We are here today to let the whole world know the Pentagon controls this government. We are here to let the people see that the poor are oppressed by this war. We are here to demonstrate to the world the repression of the military, that the people cannot even assemble in peace on the steps of the nation's Capitol . . ." The rest of what he said was lost in the uproar of arrests.

That is a brief summary of the spring events. What can we make of them?

An Evaluation

(1) For the first time in American history, veterans demonstrated in large numbers against a war in progress. Veterans and the peace movement—often hostile—were brought together in a close relationship and many of the veterans stayed over for the Peoples Lobby and the May Days. (The final action, the March to the Capitol, was led by Vietnam veterans) It is now posssible there may be a dramatic break in the discipline of U.S. troops in Vietnam, that our troops may simply make a cease-fire of their own. It is a paradox that, at the same time the Pentagon has taken effective control of domestic and foreign policy, its troops are less and less inclined to enforce that control. The National Guard MP's who were on duty at "Camp Nixon" guarding the demonstrators, were openly sympathetic, brought us cigarettes, contributed to the bail fund, and exchanged the clenched fist salute or gave the "V" sign.

(2) The second basic fact is that the peace movement is deeply split and will remain split for some time between NPAC and the Peoples Coalition. NPAC is essentially a creation of the Trotskyists (Socialist Workers Party, Young Socialist Alliance) and lacks a solid community base outside of these groups they already control.

(3) This brings us to the third point, the People's Lobby and the May Day events. Let it be admitted at once that massive mistakes were made by all concerned. The "traffic blocking" of May 3 began too early, allowing police to clear streets before the morning traffic had even started coming into Washington. The most hilarious and inexplicable snafu of the entire Spring Offensive came when the May Day tribe tried to block the 14th Street bridge at exactly the same time a contingent from the Peoples Coalition was trying to march across it to the Pentagon. There was organization confusion from the beginning. Where NPAC was smoothly efficient at everything from fund raising to holding press conferences, the Peoples Coalition printed posters and buttons and literature far too late to be useful in outlying areas. Everything was done a week or a month late or was never done at all. But, having admitted to all of this, there is little point in pursuing the matter. The fact is the events of April and early May were a success despite our blunders. We saw the largest single nonviolent action in American History, carried out in a tense situation, in the face of tear gas, police clubs, and mass arrests—and by people who had little previous experience in nonviolence.

Political Problems

There are, however, political problems we must deal with. One must note that the Peoples Coalition failed to involve trade union elements. To have genuine political clout the coalition must involve elements from the middle class, non-whites, poor, students, *and labor*. The People Coalition has been sensitive to the needs and demands of non-whites and of students, but has not been sufficiently concerned with the needs and problems of the trade unions.

The May Day Collective dealt far too much with myth rather than reality. It was always folly to assume we could really "stop the government," let alone "end the war in May." Granted there may be power in myths, granted also that some people came to Washington only because the

RING OFFENSIVE'

d McReynolds

myth of "stopping the government" made it seem worth their time, the fact remains that a politics based on myth quickly becomes a politics that cries wolf too often to be credible. The naivete of the May Day collective is indicated by the fact they really believed their own myth and when massive government action blew up the myth their own leadership publicly admitted defeat. In fact, the May Day collective and the Peoples Coalition won—they forced 13,500 arrests and left a clear warning to the government of resistance yet to come. They trained thousands in the tactics of nonviolent disruption, which can be used in many cities, not just in Washington, against tax offices, draft offices, etc.

The *idea* of closing down Washington through civil disobedience is entirely sound and justified when the government no longer represents the people but, without their consent and against their will, commits crimes against humanity. The problem was not whether it is right for us to close down the government, but our illusion that, at this stage, we had the *power* to do so. The only victory open to us—mass arrests—was won, focusing world attention on the depth of opposition to the war.

The Youth

The problem with many of the youth involved in the protests—and the protests were primarily youthful—was their willingness to substitute slogans and chants for analysis and program. For the crowd assembled on the Capitol steps to chant (briefly) "Fuck this shit" or "One, Two, Three, Four, We Don't Want Your Fucking War" is to let rage and frustration lead us into thinking that chanting obscenities can turn the country around. I am not going to start scolding youth for a few verbal obscenities, not when the national administration commits mass murder day after day. No, it is not my sense of propriety that offended, but my sense of the political. Gandhi didn't win mass support by chanting "OM"—he had a program. Ho Chi Minh didn't win by marching through the streets of Hanoi chanting "Ho, Ho, Ho Chi Minh—the Viet Minh is Going to Win!"—no, he had a program. The May Day Collective had a tactic (which didn't work as they thought it would) and they had incredible spirit and courage, and they had chants and slogans. But they did not have a program. There is another problem with the May Day folks (who are worth criticizing precisely because they are essentially very solid people) and that is the "single issue" approach they now have. Ironically they are very close to the Trotskyists they so bitterly despise, in that both groups concentrated on the single issue of Vietnam and the difference between the two groups was tactical—the Trotskyites favoring the mass legal rally of April 24. the May Day Collective favoring nonviolent disruption. It is, I think, because the May Day youth are middle class whites, college students or college drop outs, that the war in Vietnam is more real to them than the war our system wages daily against the poor and the blacks. May Day doesn't, in one sense, have politics—it has a life style. That is important, not to be dismissed or laughed at. But life style is not enough, by itself, to stop the war machine, anymore than the nonviolence of the pacifist is enough, by itself, to bring radical change into our society.

Of the Peoples Coalition itself, we may be seeing a political party or grouping coming into formation. with the adult peace groups as a kind of right wing, and May Day as a kind of left wing. The weakness of the coalition is that it is not an organization itself, but an "organization of organizations," a "federation of interest groups," and therefore always at the mercy of the component groups. It lacks a staff, a leadership, and a membership which relates primarily to the coalition.. Time and again, in the long months leading up to April and May, the coalition threatened to break apart from internal strains. The adults (including myself) were suspicious of Rennie Davis' good faith, and strongly doubted May Day would remain nonviolent. Blacks in the coalition doubted that the peace groups would really come through with an emphasis on social justice and were concerned that, once more, the blacks were getting caught in the "trick bag" of white liberals. May Day was often hostile to the coalition, convinced that they would be sold out at the last minute, that the adults would not really support or engage in mass civil disobedience. Well, the political disagreements are real enough, and they remain, but in an odd way Nixon really did bring us together. Rennie Davis kept his word. May Day remained nonviolent. The "respectable adults" did end up in jail, the shared experience of the detention camps, that bonds of trust were forged that make it possible to hope this fragile coalition will survive.

Three Final Observations

First, as the coalition develops a political program it will become increasingly difficult for peace groups to relate to it without dividing our membership. Our groups—including WRL—contain socialists, liberals, conservatives, etc., with a central concern for peace and nonviolence. The coalition is essentially radical and has a central concern with changing American society *as well as ending the war*. Thus the coalition needs, in the months ahead, to find a base of its own, perhaps becoming a membership organization with a staff of its own and some way of funding its work rather than relying on grants from existing groups.

Second, the pattern of the coalition should be extended into local work. WRL members and groups should set up local coalitions that bring together the peace movement with groups such as NWRO, SCLC, the farm workers, etc.

Third, it is necessary for us to realize that where, two years ago, there was a "national peace movement" embodied in groups such as Vietnam Moratorium and the Mobe, we now have a national movement which is no longer simply a peace movement. One of the great victories of Washington was the response of the black community. Walter Fauntroy, the newly elected black Congressman from the District of Columbia, led a caravan of twelve cars from the black community to the detention camps, bringing food. For the first time, the black community openly responded to a peace demonstration and supported it—*because it was no longer just a peace demonstration but was also addressing itself to the problems of the black community.*

For years now America has groped toward finding some new political form that could deal with and resolve our deepening national crisis. We have seen the New Politics Convention of 1967, SDS, the Weatherpeople, the Black Panthers, the Peace and Freedom Party—each tried, each was premature, each failed. The Peoples Coalition for Peace and Justice is the latest and most significant experiment. Under its leadership America saw the largest demonstration of Gandhian nonviolence in our history. Hopefully the coalition will explore other forms of action as well—the election of the Berkeley radicals comes to mind. In any event let us hope the Peoples Coalition continues to develop to the point it can offer America an alternative to continued control of our life by the corporate and military establishments.

ON THE ROAD

by Fred Ingram

Since March, the WRL Peace Bus has been on the road again after sitting dormant for two months at a New Jersey farm. The bus is on loan to a group from Berkeley, California—the Peace Brigade. The crew aboard will present periodic progress reports, with the hope others will write to WRL or the Peace Brigade with ideas on how the bus can continue to be used creatively.

The bus has thus far visited groups in many areas including Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, Kansas, the Midwest, and the Far West. The main thrust thus far has been promoting Showdown, a nation-wide draft resistance program, the People's Peace Treaty, and building for the Spring offensive in Washington, D.C. and San Francisco. One of our main goals is to leave people with continuing positive directions for bringing about an end to the war.

To me what seemed to be one of the more successful and creative things we have done with the bus, was at the march and rally, April 24 in San Francisco. I'm not too turned on to marches usually, but I feel the way we involved the bus and people in the Peace Brigade in the march was highly successful. The march started at 8:00 and different contingents were to join along the way as they marched the 7 miles to the Polo Field in Golden Gate Park. We got up early—6:00 and drove into town with a full bus (15-20 people) and went to the area where the main contingent was to join the march at 10:00. We parked the bus in a strategic place where it was visible to all and proceeded to put large banners and signs all around it. We had the stereo speakers outside, and played music. We then set up tables with literature on tax resistance, draft resistance, EAP, Peoples Peace Treaty, WIN magazine, and a bunch of books. We also set up our silk screen and were printing pictures of Gandhi on T-shirts etc. We also sent out people leafleting with information suggesting they come to the bus. We passed out over 2,000 Practice Nonviolence tags. That was the most successful item. We continued in the march and as many of the older people's feet ached, we took them abroad—all the time rapping about WRL.

After participating successfully in the April 24 mass action in San Francisco, the bus remained in the West Coast area. Plans are now being made for visiting campuses and groups in the west and possibly in the midwest by late summer, the bus also will participate in various life-festivals over the summer.

We are satisfied with the bus's success thus far, but we need help and suggestions to make it even more successful. Anyone or any group in the West or Midwest who would like a visit, should write to Peace Brigade, 2400 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, California 94704, (415) 841-6010.

WHAT IS THE PEACE BUILDING?

(WRL has purchased the building in which it had been leasing space at 339 Lafayette St. This syndicated article, which appeared in a number of major dailies across the country, is about the building. The $80,000 transaction took place in February. The terms include a down payment of $20,000 with a $60,000 mortgage payable at $500 a month till April 1981 when the balance is to be paid.)

HEADQUARTERS: "We have sort of accepted the fact that our son is what many people call a 'hippie,' and realize that at 19 we cannot keep him from doing what he thinks he has to . But we can't stop worrying and wondering if he is all right. Since he and his father find it hard to talk to each other, his letters are not very informative or frequent. Since he went to New York, however, he says he has worked a lot at the Peace Building. We know it isn't any United Nations or anything like that, but would like assurance also that it isn't a headquarters for drug addicts or violent revolutionists. What can you find out about the people at 339 Lafayette St.?—*Mrs. R.M.M.*

WATCHEM: The address is a few blocks uptown from New York's stately City Hall in an area notable only for its lack of skyscrapers. There are a few residential tenements, but mostly it is home for rows of small firms dealing in machinery and electronics. The building at 339 Lafayette is an undistinguished, three-story brick with small businesses on the street level. The tenants on the second and third floors, however, make up a catalog of causes. It is a Mecca for New York's young hippie crowd, who coined the name Peace Building. In its 5500 square feet of office space, the anti-war movement puts it all together. Although they have only been on Lafayette St. 18 months, the groups have stuck close together at other locations. The "grand daddy" of the groups is no newcomer to the anti-war scene. The War Resisters League (WRL) is a pacifist group that dates back to 1923. Branching out from WRL and clinging closely to it (or just hanging around) is a clutter of other left-political groups such as the Catholic Peace Fellowship, the Jewish Peace Fellowship, Liberation Magazine, WIN Magazine, the G.I. Counseling Services, War Tax Resistance and, lately, a fledgling women's liberation magazine. If your son is not one of the few salaried workers in the Peace Building, he is one of many volunteers who help out in one or more of the causes. His surroundings are furnished in what freelance writer Dan Carlinsky recently described as orange-rate modern. Wall decorations include mostly anti-war posters and slogans with an occasional photo. Not all the peace workers are young. Ralph DiGia, paid administrative secretary of WRL, has been at his job 14 years and is an old colleague of Bayard Rustin and the Rev. A. J. Muste. He served time for refusing the draft in World War II. He is the guiding spirit of the fledgling anti-war groups. "This is really a pacifist building," he says. "We're referred to as the Peace Building, but of course there are other groups these days that aren't really peaceful." He implies that you have no need to fear for your son. Paranoia isn't as prevalent at the Peace Building as it is among the violent left groups, although some windows are taped to protect against flying glass. Part time volunteers who are college students consider the regular workers at 339 Lafayette as terribly serious. Full time "movement" people, most feel, know what they're doing. Their families, it appears, have little to worry about as far as safety is concerned. They get little money and work very hard, but they are doing something they believe in at 339 Lafayette.

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